

REMARKS:

Status of claims and amendments

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated August 14, 2006, the Examiner:

1. rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heideman; and
2. rejected claims 3-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heideman in view of Kowalski et al.

In this amendment, claim 1 was amended to include the subject matter of original claim 4. Claims 5 and 6 were amended to depend from amended claim 1, rather than canceled claim 4. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 were amended for further clarity. Claims 4 and 8 were canceled. No new matter is added.

Amended claim 1

In the rejection of original claim 4, whose subject matter is now in amended claim 1, the Examiner referred to Heideman's bracket 31 as allegedly corresponding to both the inventive inner and outer mounting members. Heideman teaches that each singular bracket 31 is "contoured to...closely surround...the external tracks of slat 11" (column 6, lines 42-45). Heideman therefore does not disclose or suggest "an inner mounting member...supported by the first lateral side surface of the side rail...and an outer mounting member...supported by the second lateral side surface of the side rail...wherein the upper portions of the mounting members are engaged with each other by an engaging means." (Amended claim 1, lines 13-22). The inventive mounting member, comprising inner and outer mounting members, can be readily disassembled for maintenance, which is not the case for Heideman's bracket 31.

Applicant respectfully submits that Heideman and Kowalski, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest every limitation of amended claim 1. Each of claims 2-3 and 5-7 depends directly from claim 1. All pending claims are thus patentable over Heideman and Kowalski.

Conclusions

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Authorization is granted to charge any outstanding fees due at this time for the continued prosecution of this matter, or credit any overpayment, to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (matter no. 060943-0059).

Respectfully submitted,



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